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LIVESTOCK

INCREASING BEEF CATTLE PRODUCTIVITY IN UKRAINE

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 1 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by F. Eysner, corresponding member of VASKhNIL [All-Union Order of Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences im. V. I. Lenin]: "A Stop at the Half-way Point"]

[Text] Is there any need to prove that it is much more advantageous to keep two cows with a 3,000 kilogram milk yield than three producing 2,000 kilograms of milk per year each: less facilities and equipment are necessary and labor and feed costs are lower. It is therefore more profitable to increase milk production by increasing not the number but the productivity of the dairy herd. But production of beef is another matter. Estimates show that the number of cows which are fully adequate to supply the country with milk is not enough for the planned increase in meat production. Here one cannot get by with growth in cattle productivity alone. A suitable livestock population is necessary, and not just any animal, but special beef breeds.

By the age of 16-18 months, the young stock from large beef breeds exceeds animals from dairy and combined breeds by 8-10 percent in live weight, and by 1-2 percent dressed weight. This means that from each such animal, 25-30 kilograms more meat are obtained.

Even this is not the most important thing, however. Cattle raising for beef requires significantly less labor costs and capital investments as compared with dairy cattle raising--and this is the chief advantage. On all of the dairy farms on kolkhozes in the Ukraine, 420 man-hours per year are expended per cow, and only 223 on farms with beef cattle; on the kolkhoz "Peremoga komunizmu [Communism Will Overcome]" in Lohvitskiy rayon, Poltava Oblast, it is 76 man-hours. Costs for construction and equipping are less by a factor of 3-4 per head of beef cattle than for dairy cattle. And this is understandable. On beef farms, it is not necessary to set up complex equipment or build calf pens (the young cattle are kept with their mothers up to the age of 8 months), it is easier to incorporate unattached support and workshop organization of labor, and it is simpler to keep livestock records. But, I repeat, the main thing lies in the significant growth of labor productivity. As a rule, the manpower shortage is felt most acutely in regions of intensive agriculture than in other zones. This is why, irrespective of the desires of some workers or others, life compels us to develop beef cattle raising together with the highly productive dairy cattle raising.

As an example, it was decided to develop this industry on 171 farms in the Ukraine. They have also started to set up the new industry in Belorussia, where they delivered 5,118 head of cattle from 7 beef breeds. Two farms with beef cattle have been organized in Moldavia. The industry has been intensively developing in the oblasts and krais of the north Caucasus. A beef cattle breeding center for the zone was established to manage breeding operations and coordinate the activity of the scientific establishments affiliated with the Scientific Research Institute of Livestock Breeding of the UkSSR Forest Steppe and Forested Areas. It has worked out a system of breeding operations for developing beef cattle breeds in conjunction with other scientific establishments, a system for using imported breeds in rotation crossbreeding on commercial farms, the technology for managing the industry as applicable to the conditions in an intensive agriculture zone and designs for beef cattle farms for 800 and 1,200 cows (each cattle slot costs them around R600, about 3-4 times less expensive than on dairy farms).

They have decided to increase the number of beef cattle to 3-3.5 million in the Ukraine in the near future. It will take 15-20 years to achieve this goal. As a start, they have set up a network of specially selected base farms. To outfit the farms, the republic's Ministry of Agriculture organized the purchase of cross-bred heifers raised on kolkhozes as a result of industrial crossbreeding with the Charolais, a specialized beef breed. This accelerated the development of the desired type of animal, which they had decided to establish by complex reproductive crossbreeding of the Seraya Ukrainian and Siementhal cow with the Charolais and Kianskaya beef breeds. They have also organized reproducers for pure bred cattle of such beef breeds as Charolais, Aberdeen Angus, Hereford and Kianskaya within the republic. As early as 1979, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture affirmed two new types of beef cattle developed on the base farms which have productivity indicators on the level of the best beef breeds in the world.

The indicators are truly excellent: the average daily weight gain of young bulls exceeds 1,000 grams, with the consumption of only 6 to 6.7 feed units per kilogram of weight increase. The dressed yield is more than 60 percent. On the "Shlyakh do komunizma [Road to Communism]" kolkhoz, Borznian region of Chernigov Oblast, 16-month old bulls weighed 601 kilograms, with an average daily weight increase of 1,422 grams. Their dressed yield was 60.6 percent, and the meat yield, the amount of flesh per kilogram of bones, was 4.53 kilograms. The bulls from the already mentioned kolkhoz "Peremoga komunizmu" reached a weight of 630 kilograms by the 21st month, dressed weight was 60.8 percent, the bone to flesh ratio was 1:4.73. At the Kolkhoz im. Postyshev, Cherkassy Oblast, the average weight of yearling bulls exceeded 550 kilograms.

By 1980 there were already 26,500 head of beef cattle of the new type on the base farms, including 10,200 cows. The average daily weight gain of the young animals on these farms for the Tenth Five-Year Plan was almost 30 percent greater than the average indicators throughout the republic.

By no means all specialists understood the importance and the promise of this work. Many considered that it is possible to obtain good meat production from the dairy cattle in the plan and dual-purpose cattle while producing milk at

the same time. They also said that breeding of beef cattle, whereby no other production is obtained from the cow save the calf, can be profitable only in zones with vast natural pastures, whereas in the intensive agricultural regions, it will result in losses without fail. Practice has overturned these assertions.

It would seem that there are all the conditions for the development of this important industry. But matters have taken a different turn. Instead of the 171 beef farms in the Ukraine in 1981, it was decided to leave the beef cattle breeding program in place only at the 14 base farms. And even on them feeding of beef cattle has grown sharply worse. As a result, on the kolkhoz "Peremoga komunizmu," as an example, the yield of calves has been reduced from 82 to 60 percent, the average daily weight gain for the first 3 months of this year was 585 grams. But this is indicative. Even under these conditions beef cattle breeding is justified. Its level of profitability on that same kolkhoz is 32 percent, on the kolkhoz "Shlyakh do komunizmu" in Chernigov Oblast it is 31 percent, and on the kolkhoz "Zorya komunizmu [Dawn of Communism]" in Kirovograd Oblast it is 30.5 percent. In the first 6-month period of this year, the average delivery weight of this type of cattle was 470 kilograms on the kolkhoz im. Postyshev, 484 kilograms on the kolkhoz "Zorya komunizmu" and 518 kilograms for the kolkhoz "Peremoga komunizmu." Although these indicators are far from corresponding to the potential of beef cattle breeding, they are significantly higher than on the dairy cattle farms.

What happened? Nikolay Timofeyevich Yurchenko, representative of the kolkhoz "Peremoga komunizmu," Hero of Socialist Labor and delegate to the Supreme Soviet of the UkSSR has clearly observed the reason. In his letter, he states that "Beef cattle breeding is a new industry for livestock breeding in the Ukraine. Like any new business, it is easy to upset it. Just ceasing to support it is enough." And it was precisely the lack of attention and concern about the new business that became the primary cause for the decline of the new business. In local agricultural organizations, people who did not believe in the potential of beef cattle breeding came into control. Their "concern" about beef cattle breeding was expressed at times in extremely strange activities. Thus, if on the average throughout Lohvitskiy Rayon the purchase of all types of products from a single hectare is 34.7 quintals, calculated on the basis of standard grain, for the "Peremoga komunizmu" kolkhoz it is 42.5 quintals. The plan for sale of meat to the farm was increased by almost a factor of 1.5, in comparison with the actual level achieved, excessive plans and sales of grain and commercial crops, particularly sugar beets, which covers 14.6 percent of cultivated lands (with an average regional figure of 12.1 percent) were introduced. This same position holds true on other farms developing beef cattle in the Ukraine, Belorussia and the northern Caucasus.

Moreover, the most important breeding cattle from the meat producers of Aberdeen Angus on the experimental farm "Obroshino" of the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of the Western Regions of the Ukraine and at the sovkhos im. Ivan Franko in Lvov Oblast were sent off...to the meat-packing plants. The cattle reproducer for the Halloway breed in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast, the livestock population of Seraya Ukrainian and Kianskaya cattle on the sovkhos "Veremeyevskiy" in Cherkassy Oblast, the Charolais

cattle reproducer in Sumy Oblast and a number of others have been eliminated. The production of breeding yearlings raised at the base farms of the breeding center has almost stopped, and the valuable progeny of the breeding cattle, which cost a considerable sum, are going to slaughter. As a result, the center's role has been reduced to development of methodology, consultation and preparation of recommendations, for which soon there will be no one to carry them out.

In sum the number of pure bred cattle from the beef breeds brought into the Ukraine was sharply reduced by 1982. On Belorussian farms, there were 2,405 head of beef cattle in all. The beef cattle farms in Moldavia have been shut down.

The Ukrainian minister of agriculture, it is true, sometimes addresses the oblast and rayon organizations with requests not to "harm" the farms breeding beef cattle, to work together with them in developing the industry. But that's where the matter ends.

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LIVESTOCK

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIZE OF LIVESTOCK FARMS, COMPLEXES DISCUSSED

Moscow PLANOVOYE KHOZYAYSTVO in Russin No 8, Aug 83 pp 87-92

[Article by M. Sumanov, senior economist of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Agriculture: "Substantiation of the Sizes of Animal Husbandry Farms and Complexes"]

[Text] In all stages of the development of socialist agricultural enterprises it has been very important to substantiate the sizes of farms and their structural subdivisions. In the 1930's, when selecting optimal sizes of agricultural small enterprises and their subdivisions, it was taken into account that their consolidation reduces the proportional expenditures on the utilization of technical equipment, structures and administration, and at the same time expenditures increase on intrafarm shipments of cargos, and the conditions for supervising production deteriorate.

During those years, depending on the amounts of land utilization (particularly by kolkhozes of the Belorussian SSR), soviet and agricultural agencies recommended that the farms have minimal sizes: up to ten cows when the area of land was 200 hectares and 100 cows when the area of land was 3000 hectares; hog farms were to have no less than four sows when they used 150 hectares and 26 sows when they used 1500 hectares.*

Large farms were created on the sovkhoses that had the best material and technical base: for 100-200 head of adult cattle, 120 basic and tested sows (on specialized farms--200) and sheep farms for 600-1200 head.

During the 1960's, in connection with the implementation of measures for deepening specialization and concentration of agricultural production, agrarian economists devoted a great deal of attention to methodological

*See: The decree of the Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (of Bolsheviks) of 8 July 1939, "On Measures for Developing Public Animal Husbandry on the Kolkhozes" in the collection "Vazhneyshiye resheniya po sel'skomu khozyaystvu za 1938-1946" [The Most Important Decisions Regarding Agriculture During 1938-1946], Moscow, Sel'khozgiz, 1948, pp 466-468.

approaches to substantiating the sizes of both farms and their subdivisions. At that time the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Economics of Agriculture of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the Institute of Economics of the USSR Academy of Sciences in conjunction with regional institutes prepared and published methodological recommendations which indicated the sizes of agricultural enterprises, brigades and farms with respect to the various regions of the country.*

As criteria for determining the optimal sizes of farms they suggested: minimum total expenditures for unit of output or head of livestock, all other conditions being equal; yield of gross output from a particular sum of fixed productions capital with the smallest production expenditures for a particular volume of output; and the time period for recouping capital investments. The authors of the recommendations suggested taking into account in the calculations for determining the sizes of farms in local areas such factors as specialization of the farms, level of mechanization of the production processes, the productivity of farming, the density of the head of livestock, the development of the road network, the rural population, the skills of personnel, the level of intensiveness of agricultural production and the division of labor in animal husbandry. As the main methods for calculating the optimal parameters of the farms they suggested: statistical, monographic, variant, calculation-design, chronographic and mathematic.

Taking advantage of the methods of statistical and variant calculations on the basis of the minimum capital investments and current expenditures per head of livestock, the Belorussian Scientific Research Institute of Economics and Organization of Agriculture, having participated in the preparation of the aforementioned methodological recommendations, suggested for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the republic the following parameters of animal husbandry farms as being efficient: commercial dairy for kolkhozes--200-400, and for sovkhoses--300-600 cows; hog raising for kolkhozes--1500-3000, and for sovkhoses--3000-5000 head of hogs being fattened each year. In subsequent developments of this period the institute recommended other parameters of farms for the kolkhozes and sovkhoses. The maximum suggested sizes for commercial dairy farms was 800 cows, and hog farms--10,000 head being fattened each year.

Consequently one can note that when substantiating the sizes of farms during that period they were regarded as intra-economic subdivisions, and their parameters were coordinated with the sizes of the enterprises themselves, on the basis of minimum expenditures per head of livestock.

*See: "Voprosy ratsional'noy organizatsii i ekonomiki sel'skokhozyaystvennogo proizvodstva" [Questions of Efficient Organization and Economics of Agricultural Production], Moscow, "Ekonomika", 1964; "Optimal'nyye razmery sel'skokhozyaystvennykh predpriyatiy" [Optimal Sizes of Agricultural Enterprises], Moscow, "Kolos", 1965; "Optimal'nyye razmery kolkhozov" [Optimal Sizes of Kolkhozes], Moscow, "Kolos", 1970.

Still, these methods have a number of essential shortcomings: in order to substantiate the efficient sizes of farms they calculated only the feed land necessary for them in order to determine the expenditures on intrafarm shipments of cargoes (feeds and organic fertilizers), as a result of which they did not fully take into account the transportation outlays per head of livestock with a high concentration of the animals; they did not take into account expenditures on environmental protection or the acquisition of machines for gathering manure and transporting it to the fields; they did not pay attention to losses from changing the time periods for constructing and assimilating larger farms, or the net income that is obtained from areas that are allotted for construction. Moreover, the recommendations suggested taking into account many factors which cannot always be taken into account locally when substantiating the optimal sizes of farms, as a result of the lack of normatives.

In the 1970's research was conducted under the planned policy for improving the methods of substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms. At that time a number of important decrees were adopted for the development of the process of concentration of production in animal husbandry. In particular, the decree of the CPSU Central Committee in the USSR Council of Ministers (1971), "On the Development of the Production of Animal Husbandry Products on a Industrial Basis," and envisioned under the Tenth Five-Year Plan the construction of 1170 animal husbandry complexes with various capacities, including 228 hog farms and the 635 farms for producing milk.

The decree of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers (1975), "On Improving the Planning and Organization of the Construction of Animal Husbandry Complexes and Poultry Farms," limited the type sizes of animal husbandry complexes in order to provide for the introduction of progressive technologies in animal husbandry and to standardize technological equipment and construction elements. For the Tenth Five-Year Plan the following parameters were recommended: for raising and fattening young cattle--5000-10,000 head a year; areas for fattening cattle--to accommodate from five to 30; dairy complexes--from 400 to 2000 cows; and for raising non-calving young cows--to accommodate 3000-6000. The decree instructed the council of ministers of the republic, the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the USSR Ministry of Procurements in the first half of 1975 to complete the development of systems for the distribution of state, kolkhoz and interfarm animal husbandry complexes and poultry farms that were earmarked for construction under the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The decree stipulated that by the time of completion of construction of the animal husbandry complexes they would have created highly productive feed lands and feed production and feed preparation facilities.

In order to implement the aforementioned decisions, the USSR Gosstroy and the Gosplan in 1972 established norms for the duration of the construction of enterprises, building and structures, including animal husbandry

complexes, which were then made more precise in 1979. In 1982 unified norms were established for the construction and the construction reserve of enterprises, building and structures that embrace complexes for raising non-calving young cows and producing beef and pork (they will go into effect in 1983).

In 1974 the USSR Ministry of Agriculture approved norms for the length of time for assimilating plant capacities of state complexes that are being put into operation, and they were revised in 1978. It was not until 1979 that the USSR Ministry of Agriculture approved the "coefficients for allowing for the factor of time" for capital investments in agriculture. These materials were not methods that were suitable for substantiating efficient sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms, although they can be partially utilized for these purposes.

It is quite understandable that the decree's limitation of the types and sizes of animal husbandry complexes did not mean in principle that these issues were exhausted for scientific and planning institutions: questions of improving the methods for substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms with respect to local conditions and peculiarities of the zones, rayons and farms: the search for an efficient combination of various sizes of complexes and their distribution taking into account efficient utilization of land and organic fertilizers, environmental protection and other factors. On the contrary, as a result of the large expenditures and high concentration of the number of head of livestock on the complexes with limited sections of land, it was necessary to have specialists of various profiles to improve the methods of substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms. When optimizing the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms certain economists suggested taking into account, in addition to the adduced expenditures, the time periods for constructing the facilities and the loss of net income from areas of land that were built up. But they did not point out how the time factor was to be taken into account, or the net income per hectare either, since, for example, the coefficients for taking the time factor into account were not approved by the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Agriculture until 1979. Therefore the recommendations for the optimal sizes of complexes and farms were not altogether clear.

Certain economists grouped the farms and thought that with larger sizes of farms the productivity of the animals would increase in and of itself.

The method proposed by the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Gosstroy for comparing and determining efficient sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms on the basis of calculated expenditures does not include all factors that determine their efficient functioning. In the Guide for Planning Agriculture* the planned effectiveness of a number of animal husbandry

*Moscow, "Kolos," 1974.

complexes and farms is given as an example. Thus the plans indicated the following time periods for recouping capital investments in the construction of a complex for 1200 cows (box maintenance)--3.9 years, and a hog complex for fattening 108,000 head--3.4 years. These planned time periods for recouping investments in these animal husbandry complexes were determined by dividing the estimated cost of the animal husbandry complexes by the planned profit from the sale of products, without taking into account the time period for construction and assimilation. The calculations we made using coefficients for calculating the time factor for normative time periods for the construction and assimilation of these animal husbandry complexes showed that the period for the planned recouping of investments amounts to 5.8 and 5.3 years, respectively, that is, 48.7 and 55.8 percent more than the planned level.

Attaching great significance to the determination of efficient sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms in the republic, the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Agriculture first prepared recommendations for the main technological parameters of animal husbandry complexes at the end of 1974 for designing them for the Tenth Five-Year Plan. But because of the lack of scientifically substantiated methods for determining efficient sizes, the technical parameters for animal husbandry complexes and farms were reduced three different times. As compared to the initial variant, the minimum and maximum sizes of dairy complexes and farms were reduced for the Eleventh Five-Year Plan to one-half and two-fifths the previous sizes, and animal husbandry farms--one-half and ten-thirty-firsts the previous sizes.

For agricultural production, when substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms, the question of accounting for the duration of their construction and assimilation is very important. In the stage of technical and economic substantiation of the construction of animal husbandry complexes and farms this time factor is not taken into account so far. This is explained by the fact that the coefficients for making calculations of the time factor for capital investments in agriculture were approved by the USSR Ministry of Agriculture in 1979 and published in 1980.

The normative and actual duration of construction and assimilation of animal husbandry complexes and farms influence the effectiveness of agricultural production as a whole.

When substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms it is important which criterion lies at the basis of the calculations. At the present time this is, as a rule, the number of head of livestock, and not the final output, which, in our opinion, is incorrect, since with a higher level of concentration of the number of head of animals the conditions for maintaining high productivity and creating a feed base become

more difficult, especially with unstable farming. For example, a farm with 300 cows and a milk yield of 7000 kilograms per cow produces 2100 tons of milk a year and will be more advantageous than a complex for 600 cows in which the milk yield is 3000 kilograms and will produce 1800 tons a year. Certain economists think that the determination of the sizes of agricultural enterprises and their subdivisions according to the gross output is unacceptable because of the fact that this indicator is unstable because of unfavorable weather conditions, sales prices and production structure. One cannot agree with this. In our opinion, when determining the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms one should utilize as a basic criterion the ability to obtain a large quantity of high-quality products with fewer expenditures per unit of them.

It should be noted that many of the animal husbandry complexes and farms that have been constructed on the kolkhozes and sovkhoses in recent years are operating well. Thus the dairy complex for 750 cows that was constructed in 1973 on the Krasnaya Armiya kolkhoz in Vitebskiy Rayon reached its planned capacities for producing milk in 1978. In 1982 they obtained 3929 kilograms of milk from each cow here, and the profitability of its production was 23.6 percent while labor expenditures per one quintal of milk were 4.2 man-days.

The interfarm complex for fattening 10,000 head of cattle which was constructed in 1975 on the Kolkhoz imeni Uritskiy in Gomel'skiy Rayon is operating successfully, although this requires a good deal of effort from oblast agencies. The complex has practically reached its planned capacities. In 1982 the profitability of beef production here amounted to 61.8 percent with expenditures per one quintal of weight gain of 7.4 man-hours. The hog complexes on the Kolkhozes imeni Mayakovskiy in Novogrudskiy Rayon and Put' k kommunizmu in Grodnenskiy Rayon in Grodno Oblast are operating profitably with a capacity for fattening 24,000 head a year. The profitability of pork production in 1982 here amounted to 79.7 and 124.5 percent, respectively. But this is not the situation everywhere. Many complexes, especially dairy complexes, do not arrange for the assimilation of production of products within the normative time periods.

On the Zarya Kolkhoz and the Kolkhoz imeni Lenin in Buda-Koshelevskiy Rayon in Gomel Oblast on the dairy complexes with 800 and 1260 cows, respectively, in 1982 they produced 2000 kilograms of milk per cow and on the Antonovskiy Kolkhoz in Chauskiy Rayon in Mogilev Oblast, where a hog raising complex for 12,000 head to be fattened annually was erected in 1977 the average daily weight gain of hogs amounted to 292 grams in 1982. It should be noted that the animal husbandry complexes have preferential supply of state mixed feeds and are provided with breeding animals.

The reasons for the unsatisfactory work of a number of animal husbandry complexes and large farms, in our opinion, lie in the shortcomings in

the methods of substantiation and the poor preplanning development of the selection of the optimal size, as well as the lack of the necessary sequence and comprehensiveness of construction, the inadequate substantiation of the possibilities of the creation of the feed base, the provision of animals, and so forth.

In order to substantiate more completely the efficient sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms and to select effective variants we suggest taking the following factors into account for a comparative evaluation of planning decisions for the construction of animal husbandry complexes that operate with their own feed base, according to the formula

$$Z_p = [(C + E_n K) + K_c + K_o + K_p + L_d + M]Q$$

where Z_p --calculated expenditures according to variants, rubles;

C --current expenditures, rubles;

E_n --normative coefficient of effectiveness (0.15);

K --capital investments, including expenditures on the formation of the basic herd and the system of machines for accumulating and utilizing manure, rubles;

K_c --"losses" of capital investments during the period of construction of the facility until the start up (determined on the basis of coefficients of calculation according to the time factor and construction norms), rubles;

K_o --"losses" during the period of assimilation of capacities that have been introduced (determined on the basis of coefficients of the calculation of the time factor and norms for assimilation), rubles;

K_p --"losses" during the period of achieving the planned productivity of the cows, rubles;

L_d --"losses" of net income from the area that has been built up (from the calculation of the average net income received during three years per unit of area on the farm during the construction period), rubles;

M --additional income from improving product quality or reduced income because of deterioration of product quality, rubles;

Q --quantity of products, quintals.

The proposed formula does not embrace all factors that influence effective functioning of animal husbandry complexes and farms. Certain of them have not been taken into account because at the present time there are no normatives of the degree of their influence on the results of the production of complexes and farms, depending on the level on concentration of the animals. In particular, there are no scientifically substantiated normatives for possible losses of capital investments and products as the sizes of animal husbandry complexes increase because of the deterioration of supervision of production, the unfavorable influence of animal husbandry complexes on the environment and the animals, and the application of various systems of accumulating and utilizing manure.

In the table that is presented from the example of the Novyy byt Kolkhoz in Minskiy Rayon in Minsk Oblast, we have given a comparative calculation of proportional expenditures for the construction of dairy complexes with various parameters, using the aforementioned formula in order to reveal the best variant. In 1979 a complex was constructed on the kolkhoz for maintaining 1200 head of cattle in stables, and its estimated cost is 2,023,100 rubles. According to the plan, the dairy complex was to produce 48,000 quintals of milk per year with a milk yield per cow of 4000 grams and the production cost of one quintal of milk being 14.18 rubles. The planned time period for recouping investments in the complex was 4.9 years.

The calculations we made of the proportional expenditures among the dairy complexes for producing one quintal of milk, depending on the level of concentration of the cattle maintained in stables are given in the table.

	Proportional expenditures on producing one quintal of products, rubles						
	C	K	K _c	K _o	K _p	L _d	Z _p
400	14.29	9.52	5.02	10.05	2.75	0.001	41.63
600	14.18	9.38	4.93	9.86	2.75	0.001	41.10
800	14.16	9.24	5.42	9.68	2.75	0.003	41.24
1 000	14.17	8.54	6.83	9.10	2.81	0.01	41.46
1 200	14.18	8.08	6.34	8.31	2.81	0.02	39.74

The expenditures presented in the calculation per unit of product show the advantage of the variant of the farm with 1200 head. They are 4.5 percent lower than those of the farm with 400 head. The reason for this is that the existing norms for the assimilation of animal husbandry complexes do not differ significantly. For example, the norm for the assimilation of a complex with 400 cows is 4 percent lower than those for a dairy complex with 1200 cows.

On the Novyy byt Kolkhoz during three years the dairy complex that was constructed was assimilated by only 36.4 percent in terms of the gross milk production while the norm is 93 percent. In terms of the productivity of the herd and the provision of animals it was underassimilated as compared to the planning norm for this period by 33.5 percent and 38.9 percent, respectively. The production cost of one quintal of milk in 1982 amounted to 25.6 rubles, which is 80.3 percent more than was planned.

Before the construction of the dairy complex on the kolkhoz the farm that existed here obtained 2788 kilograms of milk per cow, and on the dairy complex that was constructed in 1982 they obtained 2380 kilograms, which is 305 kilograms less than the average for the kolkhoz. On the dairy farms here which have stable-pasture maintenance of the cows the yields are higher. On the farm in the village of Dubitskaya with 120 cows in 1982 they obtained 3971 kilograms of milk from each, and on the farm in the village of Yes'kovo (200 cows)—3442 kilograms.

According to our calculations, if in the remaining two years the capacities of the complex are still brought up to the plant level (31.8 percent per year), the calculated expenditures per one quintal per output will be not 39.74 rubles, but 47.79 rubles. But these rates are unrealistic. Even with a ten-percent assimilation of the remaining production capacities each year, the calculated expenditures will increase to 58.64 rubles. Consequently, it was more advantageous to construct a farm for no more than 400-600 cows.

In order to use the existing norms for the duration of construction and assimilation when comparing the effectiveness of variants of animal husbandry complexes and farms, it is necessary to refine them. In our opinion, it is hardly justified to introduce the same norms for the duration of assimilation (29 months) for hog complexes for 12,000 head and for 108,000 head, regardless of whether or not they are using their own or the state feed base, and also for complexes for raising non-calving young cows, and fattening and completing the raising of young cattle. For dairy complexes with 400 and 2000 cows the differences amount to only four percent. The actual time periods for the assimilation of the larger complex are much greater than for the small farms, which is clear from the example of the Novyy byt kolkhoz in Minskiy Rayon.

The actual duration for the construction of animal husbandry complexes is also above the normative. Thus on the Druzhba Kolkhoz in Postavskiy Rayon in Vitebsk Oblast, the first section of the hog complex for 24,000 head was constructed in three years (with a norm for the entire complex of 21 months). The construction of the Sozh hog complex in Gomel Rayon for 108,000 head exceeded the normative time period 1.7-fold, and the dairy complexes for 800 cows on the Yel'skiy Sovkhoz in Gomel Oblast and the Rydoml'skiy Sovkhoz in Vitebsk Oblast--also 1.7-fold. And on the Malyshkovichi Sovkhoz in Mogilev Oblast a complex for 1200 cows has been under construction since 1977. Therefore it would be expedient for statistical and agricultural agencies to improve the accounting for the actual time periods for construction and assimilation of animal husbandry complexes and farms as compared to the planned time periods.

Scientific and planning institutions have still not completed development of questions related to the sequence of all expenditures necessary for the construction of animal husbandry complexes and farms. At the present time the farms carry out construction work on animal husbandry complexes on the basis of a unified title list and estimate, and land reclamation work for feed production on land adjacent to the complexes. As for the allotment of funds for the formation of the herd, the development of the feed base and the training of personnel, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses take care of this separately, frequently after the completion of the construction of the animal husbandry complex, which violates the comprehensiveness and observance of the sequence of expenditures. The implementation by the farms of all measures which determine effective functioning of animal husbandry farms on the basis of a unified estimate and title list of construction projects would contribute to increasing the return from the facilities that are constructed.

When determining the sizes of animal husbandry complexes it is necessary to take into account the conditions for the accumulation and efficient utilization of manure. With a high concentration of animals the accumulation of manure and its effective utilization are difficult, and to ship it over a distance of more than four kilometers involves large outlays. Therefore conditions deteriorate for development of the feed base and protection of the environment, and the differentiation of the fields in terms of fertility becomes greater.

Practice shows that when substantiating the sizes of animal husbandry complexes and farms, and also distributing them, it is necessary to use precise scientific calculations, enlisting agricultural scientists and specialists of various profiles in carrying them out.

At the present time the systems for the development and distribution of animal husbandry complexes and poultry farms that are developed by scientific research and design institutions include not only state and inter-farm enterprises, but also animal husbandry complexes of farms which, in our opinion, is not altogether justified. Centralized planning of the distribution of complexes frequently leads to mistakes, to their separation from the feed base, and a miscalculation of the fertility of the land and also the occupational skills the workers have already gained. It seems that when developing systems for the development and distribution of animal husbandry complexes one should include in them only those which will operate mainly with purchased feeds and distribute them around cities and industrial centers in order to provide the population with food products. It is necessary to increase the economic responsibility of scientific research and design institutions for recommendations concerning the sizes and distribution of animal husbandry complexes that are constructed on the farms and also the time periods for recouping expenditures.

The implementation of measures for improving the planning of the sizes of animal husbandry farms and complexes and their distribution will contribute to successfully implementing the Food Program.

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11772

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LIVESTOCK

FARM HORSE HARNESS SUPPLY PROBLEMS CONSIDERED

Moscow LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 10 Jun 83 p 14

[Unsigned article under the rubric: "Follow-Up Comments in 'LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA'"; "Will There Be a Harness for the Gray Mare?"]

[Text] The 1 April 1983 issue of LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA contained the article "Harness for the Gray Mare" by P. Krupenikov, which examined the problems of providing kolkhozes and sovkhoses with carts, harnesses and special agricultural implements. It is no accident that these problems have been raised. In recent years the population of horses engaged in various field, livestock and transport operations on the farms of the RSFSR had increased greatly. But it is difficult at present to utilize efficiently this truly peasant means of transport and tractive power. The supply of horse harnesses and implements adapted to horse traction is inadequate.

P. Krupenikov's article aroused the interest of both readers and the heads of certain ministries and departments directly linked to this problem. All the official responses to the Editors stress that this newspaper has raised an important and topical issue which urgently needs to be resolved.

P.A. Kolomiyets, RSFSR deputy minister of agriculture, notified us that during the current five-year plan period the RSFSR Ministry of Light Industry, the RSFSR Ministry of Local Industry, the RSFSR Ministry of the Forestry Industry, the RSFSR Ministry of the Fuel Industry, the ASSR Councils of Ministers and the oblast and kray executive committees of the soviets of workers' deputies have been charged with the task of organizing the production of horse-drawn carts, sledges, harnesses, saddles, horseshoeing equipment and the appropriate agricultural implements in quantities that would meet the needs of farms for these products. As early as this year kolkhozes and sovkhoses will be provided with 33.5 million rubles of harness gear, or one million rubles more than last year.

Such figures seem substantial, but it turns out that they are insufficient. As P.A. Kolomiyets further states in his letter, the current demand for horse collars has been met only 78 percent; for harnesses, 77 percent; and for saddles, 81 percent.

The situation as regards carting equipment is somewhat better. A.P. Kolubayev, RSFSR deputy minister of local industry, wrote us that his ministry has, jointly with the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Horse Raising under the USSR Ministry of Agriculture, developed and introduced the series production of various modifications of rubber-wheeled carts which are now produced in the amount of 10,000-11,000 annually. Work is currently under way to construct a ten-seat vehicle for transporting people and freight and other items. The ministry can expand its output of carts provided that it is supplied with the needed accessories. But it is precisely the accessories that are in short supply at present.

What is more, in its time the ministry of the machine tool and tool building industry discontinued the production of specialized carting equipment. Hence, the ministry of local industry had to establish its own specialized design and planning bureau whose collective assumed the entire task of developing and constructing specialized carting equipment and many prototype accessories as well as devising technological production processes, building carting equipment plants, preparing all-union state standards and price lists, etc. A large number of the related technical and technological problems has by now been solved.

Thus, it can be expected that the problem of carts and other horse-drawn vehicles will be resolved. To be sure, the resources of a single ministry are insufficient for this purpose and it cannot count on special assistance from anyone. It could be helped by the Ministry of the Forestry Industry, but so far this is not a realistic expectation. V.A. Galaktionov, RSFSR deputy minister of the forestry industry has notified the editors that his ministry builds horse-drawn vehicles manually. This work is most often done by forester personnel which thus diverts it from their regular duties. To mechanize this production the ministry needs 12 different types of machine tools. After 10 years it still has not been able to procure them.

The stand taken by this newspaper has greatly helped the farms of Vologda Oblast. A.K. Sorokin, deputy chairman of the board of the "Rospotrebsoyuz" [RSFSR Union of Consumer Cooperatives] has notified this newspaper that at present the needs of the Vologda Oblispolkom for harnesses, bits, reins, traces and other harnessing gear have been completely satisfied. In addition, on discussing the stand taken by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, the board of the "Rospotrebsoyuz" placed its subordinate organizations under the obligation of taking urgent steps to improve the supplies of these items to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the RSFSR.

Definite changes in supplying farms with various appurtenances for the utilization of horses have incontestably occurred. But on the whole the situation is alarming. How did it happen that using the horse, that old and most faithful friend of the farmer, now entails such difficulties?

An answer to this question was provided in the letter by K.I. Suslov, deputy chairman of the RSFSR State Committee for Agricultural Equipment. According to him, the difficulties in assuring the supplies of horse-drawn equipment, harnesses and carts are due to the absence of a uniform approach to determining

the demand for that equipment as well as to the lack of coordination in its planning and production. The system of machines for the comprehensive mechanization of agricultural production, developed by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Mechanization of Agriculture and confirmed by a number of concerned ministries and departments, does not provide for the production of a complete gamut of mounted implements other than plows, rakes and horse-drawn hay mowers. And besides what is being produced does not meet the quantitative demand of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The sole correct and effective way out of the existing situation would be the development of the needed variety of mounted implements by experts at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture and the organization of their production.

It is difficult not to agree to such a proposal. But its implementation requires a thorough analysis of the demand for all the needed items promoting the further expansion of horse raising and from the long-range point of view at that. Despite the large amount of power equipment with which the modern farm is saturated, it is still too early to exclude the farm workhorse from consideration, especially in the non-chernozem zone. Even now we do not always handle that equipment effectively and with proprietary care. One can often see a high-power "K-700" drag a dolly on which lie two orphaned sacks containing seeds. An endless multitude of such instances could be cited. The further expansion of the use of horses in agriculture is inseparably tied to the conservation of the fuel and energy resources allocated to the countryside. And the solution of these problems already is of importance to the state.

The growth of the horse population in the kolkhozes and sovkhozes is a logical occurrence. It can be only welcomed. But it also needs assistance, chiefly by providing farms with everything necessary to enable horses to work on land as before.

1386

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LIVESTOCK

UTILIZING POTENTIAL OF LATVIAN PRIVATE PLOTS FOR LIVESTOCK RAISING

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 13 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by Z. Girgenson, Latvian SSR minister of procurements: "Mutual Advantage"]

[Text] The USSR Food Program emphasized that in order to augment the food resources, it is necessary to utilize extensively the capabilities of private subsidiary farms of the citizens. They are given all-around support in the republic. Their contribution to providing the population with food products is growing. During the first half year, considerably more milk and meat were procured from private farms than during the corresponding period of last year.

This is the result of the concern of party, soviet and agricultural agencies and public organizations for the development of private subsidiary farms. While in past years the number of cows, hogs and sheep owned privately by the citizens in the republic decreased, now the quantity of livestock is increasing. There are now 1,656 cows, 28,806 hogs, and 4,800 sheep more than last year. But the results that have been achieved are far from fully corresponding to the possibilities.

With an overall increase in the number of cows on private subsidiary farms of the republic as a whole, the number of head of livestock has decreased in ten rayons. Residents of Limbazhskiy and Rizhskiy rayons have begun to keep a considerably smaller number of cows in their yards. In four rayons, the number of sheep on the farms of the citizens has decreased.

At the beginning of this year, 40 percent of the rural population had no cattle, 56 percent kept no cows and 65 percent did not raise hogs. The provision of the rural population with livestock was especially poor in Orgskiy and Tukumskiy rayons, where two-thirds of the population did not have cows or hogs. But the situation is most difficult in Rizhskiy rayon where almost 90 percent of the rural population do not have cows.

The great possibilities of the kolkhozes and suvkhozes to render assistance to the population by providing them with livestock are still being utilized extremely insignificantly. During the six months of this year, the kolkhozes and suvkhozes sold and resold for fattening under contracts with the population only 7,500 head of young cattle. At the same time, at the meat combines and on the farms, they slaughtered about 43,000 underweight young cattle and calves for meat.

In recent years the assignments for the sale of piglets and young poultry to the population has been overfulfilled. But the demand is far from being fully satisfied. The population receives very small numbers of young geese, turkeys and roosters, which are destroyed in large numbers at incubator stations.

An important role in increasing the production and sale to the state of animal husbandry products from private subsidiary farms has been played by unified planning of procurements of cattle and milk in the public and individual sectors. This has increased the motivation of the kolkhozes and suvkhozes to further develop private subsidiary farms.

All kolkhozes and suvkhozes have specialists in the organization of private subsidiary farming. It is important not to allow perfunctoriness and to conduct the necessary organizational work. Still, many farms have placed the duties of zootechnicians for organizing private subsidiary farming on the shoulders of other specialists, from whom one can hardly expect a complete return. In Dobel'skiy and Rizhskiy rayons, almost half of the farms combined the duties of specialists.

All rayon agri-industrial associations, meat combines and rayon procurement inspection organizations have been given a plan of additional measures for fuller utilization of the capacities of private subsidiary farms belonging to the population for the production and procurements of animal husbandry products. But so far this plan is not being completely fulfilled. New forms of incentive and ways of conducting private subsidiary farming are not becoming widespread. Not enough additional land plots are being allotted for raising feed crops, they are not giving young cattle to young families free of charge or eliminating up to 50 percent of the credit granted to kolkhoz and suvkhoz workers for acquiring cows and calves or granting credit and advances for acquiring equipment and materials and constructing animal husbandry premises on a cooperative basis.

Increasing the production of milk and meat on private subsidiary farms of the citizens should take place primarily with feed resources produced by the citizens themselves. All kinds of assistance should be rendered to them by the kolkhozes and suvkhozes. It is necessary to allot pastures and hay fields and, if the farms are capable, also coarse and juicy feeds and grain forage.

From year to year, consumers' cooperation increases the sale of mixed feeds to the population from state resources. Under the conditions of the unified plan for state procurements of milk and livestock from the population under contracts, it is apparently expedient to grant the rayon agri-industrial associations the right to establish the policy for the sale of mixed feeds to the population, taking concrete local conditions into account. This will make it possible to control their expenditure better and to achieve an increase in the production of products on private farms.

One of the factors impeding the further growth of the number of livestock on private subsidiary farms of the rural population is the failure in a number of cases to carry out decisions concerning the construction of outbuildings. In 1982, for example, 32 apartments were released for operation without outbuildings in Preyl'skiy rayon, a 60-apartment building on the Ezertsyemskiy kolkhoz and an 18-apartment building on the Krimulda scientific experimental farm in Rizhskiy rayon. Twenty families of workers on the Buldurskiy Sovkhoz-Tekhnikum who expressed a desire to keep livestock cannot do this because of the lack of premises for the livestock. The situation is the same in other rayons.

The conclusion of agreements with the population for raising livestock and selling surplus milk has firmly entered the practice of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. At the present time, there are 131,300 contracts in effect for raising and purchasing 42,200 tons of livestock, and 115,000 contracts for purchasing 273,300 tons of milk. These embrace two-thirds of the citizens of rural areas who keep cattle and 84 percent of the people who have cows on their farms.

In Bauskiy, Ogrskiy, Tsesisskiy and certain other rayons, they do not do a good job of concluding contracts with the population for raising and selling cattle and in Ventspilsskiy, Liyepayskiy and Ludzenskiy rayons--for the sale of milk.

In many cases, the contracts with the population for raising and selling cattle and selling milk are concluded formally. They frequently do not indicate the kind of assistance that is to be given to the population by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

During the six months of this year, for each cow privately owned by the population in the republic as a whole, 943 kilograms of milk were purchased, which is 198 kilograms more than last year. But, while in Tukumskiy and Limbzhskiy rayons during this time, an average of more than 1,200 kilograms of milk per cow were purchased, and in Valkskiy and Valmierskiy rayons--

more than 1,300, in a number of rayons the amount of milk purchased was less than 700 kilograms, and in Balvskiy and Ludzenskiy rayons--little more than 500 kilograms.

The existence of large reserves for purchasing milk is also confirmed by the fact that on an average for the republic less than two-thirds of the farms that have cows participate in the sale of milk to the state, and in Ventspilskiy, Ludzenskiy and Stuchkinskiy rayons--less than half.

This depends largely on the development of the milk-receiving network and the existence of circular routes through the peasant farms of mobile milk-receiving points belonging to enterprises of the dairy industry. One cannot put up with this situation. It is the task of the rayon agri-industrial association, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses, and the enterprises of the dairy industry to organize the procurement of milk from each farmstead.

The crops of potatoes, vegetables, fruits, berries and orchard fruits are ripening on the farmstead plots. In the overall purchases of potatoes, the proportion of private subsidiary farms amounts to approximately 25 percent, fruits and berries--more than 50 percent, and vegetables--1.5 percent.

During the period of mass procurements in 1982, consumers' cooperation in the republic purchased potatoes, vegetables, fruits and berries from the population at 173 permanent and 370 seasonal receiving and procurement points and in more than 900 stores. It is important that this year, too, all of the products that have been raised be promptly received, not only from the kolkhozes and sovkhoses, but also from the private population. In order to provide not only for fulfillment, but also for overfulfillment of the plans for state procurements of animal husbandry and other agricultural products that have been established for this year and to make up for the shortage that exists because of the first two years of the five-year plan, it is necessary to take more extensive advantage of the possibilities of private subsidiary farms. It is necessary to take effective measures for increasing the production and sale to the state of milk, cattle, poultry, potatoes, vegetables, fruits and berries.

In his speech at the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov said, "It is especially necessary to arrange continuous supply of the population with high-quality food products, and in such a way as to achieve the maximum possible self-supply in this respect. Our Food Program is directed toward solving this problem." We procurement workers have received these words as a guide for action.

11772

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PARTY OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

Moscow SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA in Russian 23 Jul 83 p 2

[Interview with G. Mgeladze conducted by I. Mukhraneli, SOVETSKAYA KUL'TURA correspondent, Tbilisi: "Masters of Their Own Land"]

[Text] At the June Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee, the instructive experience of the Abasha region of Georgia in organizing a new managerial structure for agricultural production was discussed. The creation of the agroindustrial association was approached here first and foremost as a problem of establishing new relationships among people who are bound by a single goal, a single interest, the responsibility for the final results of the whole operation. Particular concern is being paid to satisfaction of social and cultural demands of the people, the development of democratic principles in production administration.

At that time Guram Davidovich Mgeladze, now Hero of Socialist Labor and representative to the State Committee on Agricultural Production of the GeSSR, was First Secretary of the party raykom.

We asked G. Mgladze to tell us how agroindustrial integration influenced the situation in the republic's agriculture and the social development of the village.

[Answer] The USSR Food Program, adopted by the May (1982) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee is a document of historic importance. The program not only determined the primary landmarks of our work, the on-going and future tasks for providing the Soviet people with provisions and increasing its standard of living, but indicated concrete paths for solving these problems as well. One of them is intensification of agriculture. The Earth always repays in hundredfold the care taken. Unfortunately, we frequently do not utilize even half of its capacities. Our relationship to the Earth has been not that of zealous masters, but that of consumers.

The creation of associations combining all of the organizations servicing agriculture into a united and powerful complex was a decisive factor in the radical restructuring of agriculture. We have overcome the complexities in its formation, and a structured administration system for the sectors of the APK [agroindustrial complex] has been created, beginning with the link at the regional level and terminating with republic-level bodies. Recently the political and labor activity of workers in the village has grown noticeably, party and state discipline have been strengthened, and progressive forms of labor organization are being incorporated.

[Question] Of what does the Abasha experiment consist?

[Answer] In the Abasha experiment it is necessary to make 4 points: the creation of new forms of administration, the system of material and moral motivation, concentration of equipment, and cooperation. Moreover, we have paid particular attention, on the one hand, to increasing the role of primary party organizations and, on the other, to the development of the initiative and creativity of the masses. Having created in Abasha an independent regional agricultural production association, using the production resources of all enterprises and organizations and the achievements of science and engineering effectively, we were able to use the Earth more efficiently, to increase labor productivity and to improve the socio-economic conditions of life for the people.

Such associations have now been created throughout the republic. Intensification of production also means maximum use of resources. It seems to me that considerable reserves lie hidden behind the radical retooling of plants for the processing industry and integration of publicly owned farms with private plots. It is necessary for us to search for new forms of cooperation with the populace for successful resolution of the Food Program in the republic's villages. There are 225,000 houses without cattle of any kind, and if each farmstead were to have a single cow, it would produce a supplement of more than 20,000 tons of meat and 180,000 tons of milk.

Intensification of agriculture is impossible without scientific and technical progress. Now, when a persistent search for optimal forms of agricultural management is under way, the role of science has grown immeasurably. We are waiting for help from agrarian economic science. We are waiting for that time when the scientists of the republic's 3 economic institutes (Minsel'khoz [Ministry of Agriculture], Gosplan and the Academy of Sciences) will turn to face the Earth and give scientifically based advice to practical workers for all of the questions which are troubling them.

In creating the Georgian branch of VASKhNIL [All-union Order of Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences im. V.I. Lenin], we desire to subordinate all scientific research establishments and vuz's with an agricultural profile to it and to join and concentrate efforts of agrarian science toward a single purpose.

The new form for integration of science and production which has come about in our republic, a partnership of several institutes with the regions on the basis of mutually advantageous agreements is interesting.

[Question] What role does cooperation with the populace play in the development of animal husbandry?

[Answer] This is one of the significant methods for increasing the relative importance of animal husbandry. Thus, for example, in the mountain regions, they have started to use a type of cooperation in the following manner: they are turning over young livestock for people to raise. If the people are helped with fodders and the strain of cow is improved on the personal subsidiary farms, it is possible to raise the average milk yield by 250-300 kilograms, which constitutes an additional 100,000-120,000 tons of milk on a republic-wide scale. Cooperation between the best subsidiary farms and the publicly owned ones has aided not only in increasing the production of animal husbandry products, but also in solving important functional questions. The extent to which collective farm and state farm workers, persons on pensions and housewives are materially interested and the degree to which they are employed has risen, and their well-being has improved. Thanks to cooperation, the personal subsidiary farm has merged with the publicly owned ones harmoniously and firmly. It seems to me that it is precisely cooperation with the populace which will help us solve problems to increase animal husbandry products in the shortest time period.

[Question] How are the problems of social reformation of the village, the creation of conditions for strengthening cadres and of improving the cultural and domestic, medical and commercial services to the rural populace being resolved?

[Answer] During the Soviet years, Georgia has turned into a fair and flowering vineyard, an amazing garden of wonders, with the gifts of all climatic zones other than the tropics. Kakhetiya has turned green with new vineyards. Swampy, malaria-infested Kolkhida, the land of the Golden Fleece, of ancient cathedrals and skillful masters, after draining the swamps and marshy lowlands, has turned into a region of citrus plantations and tea.

Now the republic is electrified, the most remote mountain villages are linked with the centers, and a tendency has been noted for locating major cultural seats, theatres, art galleries, symphony and chamber orchestras, in small towns and regional centers. All of this stimulates cultural life in the provinces. Residents of the highly inaccessible mountain regions are surrounded by the particular concern of the party and the government. In these villages, roads are appearing and cultural and domestic projects and kindergartens are being built....In just one region, in mountainous Adzhariya, R21.2 million has been allocated for capital construction. The blue light of television sets has been turned on in mountainous Svanetiya, roads have been built in Khevsuretiya, a

one-of-a-kind unsupported freight and passenger cableway is being built between Khulo and Tago, the length of which is 1,800 meters, a music school in the high alpine village of Barisakho is open....It is difficult to enumerate everything which has been done during the last few years. Long ago, the Georgian peasant grew firmly accustomed to culture, to the achievements of all of the peoples of the USSR. However, we still have many problems.

Unfortunately, we still have many villages in which there is no running water, no bathrooms, no clubs, barbershops, dressmakers and tailors, stores, laundry facilities....

[Question] What can you say about the contacts of cultural workers with workers in the villages?

[Answer] Literature and art are justifiably called the moral barometer, a measure of a people's spirituality. It wasn't said coincidentally that "man does not live by bread alone!" Beginning with reforms of agriculture, we relied on the support of public opinion from the very beginning, we studied the points of view not only of farmers, but also of scientists, authors, newspaper people....In Abasha they held a roundtable of Georgian writers and economists devoted to the social and cultural development of the area. Nobar Dumbadze, Dzhangug Charkviani, Archil Sulakauri and Zurab Tsereteli, poets, artists, actors and musicians are frequent guests in the region. And the writer Konstantin Lordkipanidze, who told about the people of the region for the first time in his belletristic essays, was elected an honorary citizen of Abasha here. Each meeting with the cultural workers of Georgia was transformed into a great and happy holiday. They developed in the people a sense of pride in the region, an aesthetic taste, an inner dignity, and they assured them of the necessity and the importance of their labor.

Labor holidays, new rites and competition between equipment operators, vine growers, feed growers, etc. and competitions such as, for example, for the title of best farmstead have been affirmed on precisely the recommendations of the cultural workers in the workers.

Currently, brigades of poets, artists and musicians are constantly being sent into the far corners of Georgia, and these trips are not of an episodic nature, but are the sum total of a protracted collaboration, a mutual interpenetration and mutual influence. Thus, as a result of a 2-month long visit of artists in Terzhola Rayon, an exhibition opened, the heroes of which were the people of the region. Art and music schools opened because of the initiative of the cultural workers in Gori, Tschakaya, Velistikhe, Makharadze and Akhaltsikhe, people's universities of culture are operating in Dusheti, Ikalto and Sapara, old cathedrals and fortresses are being restored and song and dance ensembles are being

established. The union of art and labor is firm and beneficial. The movies, poetry and prose, the artistic canvases and musical works of the cultural workers of Georgia, who have been awarded the "Chronicle of the Five-Year Plan" Prize, and their wide-spread popularity with the rural populace attest to this fact.

The cultural workers and journalists can do an awful lot to propagandize the Food Program, to improve the political and educational work. The contacts between the creators and the agricultural workers, as was noted at the June Plenum, should develop even more deeply. Artists, those who create a faithful and accurate portrait of their contemporaries, and who express the pulse of the time, the hopes, the dreams and the strivings of our people should also participate in mobilization of the efforts of the workers for qualitative improvement of the work of the entire agroindustrial complex and for the further rise of agriculture.

9194

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

UKRAINIAN PARTY OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RAPO COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 21 Jul 83 p 2

[Article by A. Korinevich, first secretary of the Gussyatinskiy raykom of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Ternopol Oblast: "Not Taking Care of Trifles"]

[Text] With the formation of the new body for administration of agricultural production (RAPO [Regional Agro-industrial Association] Council), many changes have occurred in the rayon. Here is just one of the examples. Formerly quotas were assigned to the kolkhozes by the rayispolkom's agricultural administration and this was, properly, the end of it.

Now the plans for farms are discussed beforehand at the RAPO Council. The Party raykom is concerned that all partners participate in the discussions, and that they comprehensively weigh the capabilities of each farm. They desire that this all proceeded democratically, without imposing some figures or another from above, as a volitional decision. What does this yield? Precisely that the farm manager knows both his own quota and what his neighbors are working for. During a collective discussion of the annual plans for 1983 at the RAPO Council, plans were introduced by the farm managers. Reserves for one type of product or other were jointly reviewed.

After this discussion, there were no complaints about increased plans, nor did the individual collective farm managers walk from office to office at the raykom and rayispolkom with requests to reduce them. In a word, everything was in its right place and people's attention was concentrated on fulfilling the plan.

One other example. In the rayon there are 2 specialized farms for pork production on which more than 70 percent of the animal population is concentrated. For a long time the conservation of young animals was a matter of indifference. Life and practice prompted matters: It is necessary to shift to maintenance in battery-type facilities. The question was brought up at a session of the RAPO Council. There were many proposals, and certain partners in the RAPO, managers of industrial enterprises, revealed a desire to help the farms with their own efforts and materials, and they planned deadlines for completion of the work.

The Party Rayon Committee constantly kept in its field this important question. On both specialized farms facilities have now been built, and as a result, for 7 months, as compared same period of last year, murrain in young has decreased significantly, and the average daily weight gains increased by 192 grams on the average. For 100 hectares of agricultural lands, the specialized swineries produced 14 quintals more meat, in comparison with last year, and State purchases have increased.

The regional agro-industrial association concentrated its primary attention on the most important trends in agricultural economics, which, in the final result, depends on participation of all partners of the agro-industrial complex. For a long time, we put the issue to the Oblast Sovet and operational bodies of building a cremery in the rayon. For the milk produced in the rayon (100 tons and more daily) was being delivered to plants situated in neighboring rayons--Chortkovskiy and Terebovlyanskiy. This was economically disadvantageous to both the farms and the plants. The kolkhozes suffered particularly great losses in the summertime, on hot days, for milk is, after all, a highly perishable product.

At the session of the RAPO Council it was decided to establish a creamery at the former Khorostkovskiy milk point, the rennovation and installation of equipment to be done with participation of all partners of the rayon agro-industrial association on a shared basis. The amount of work for each collective farm and each enterprise was determined, as well as the number of workers. Someone from the party raykom office was constantly in attendance at the planning sessions: the secreatries, the rayispolkom's chairman or his deputies. In 4 months, all of the envisioned work was carried out and the plant was already yielding its first output. Economists calculated that along with improving the quality of the daily products, another thing was also important. The total savings of State resources just by cutting back on truck transport costs will be \$140,000-150,000 per year on the average. The transport involved in milk shipment was reduced by a factor of 2.6.

Questions of supplying an inter-farm enterprise producing beef with an adequate quantity of fodder were successfully resolved by the RAPO Council, along with a number of other important problems which were earlier just beyond the means of the individual farms. In particular, recommendations and measures were developed by the Council for increasing output of sugar beets and for sales of fodder to the State and for its storage merit approval.

This year almost one-half of the area in sugar beets (3,600 hectares) is being cultivated on the basis of an industrial technology and all of the prerequisites for producing 500 quintals of the root crop per hectare are in place. As concerns production of fodder, here emphasis is being placed on the quality of the individual types of forage, on their nutritive value. In connection with this, it was decided to

increase sowing of perennial grasses, while cutting back on annuals, as well as to sow peas instead of oats and vetch. Necessary attention is being paid to corn, and all RAPO partners have agreed that we should cultivate early-maturing and medium-maturing strains and hybrids of this crop.

The tedious work of cultivating fodder crops has already yielded fruit for this year. At the start of the year, the rayon came forth with an initiative within the oblast, having taken upon itself the obligation for producing an increase in milk production during the first half of the current year. Thanks to a reliable feed base, and to the constant work of party organizations and the farms' collectives, they kept their word. The kolkhozes "Peremoga," "im. 30th Anniversary of the Soviet Ukraine," "im. 26th CPSU Congress," and "im. Ivan Franko" met their semiannual quotas earlier than others. Calculations show that this year we will eliminate the debt in animal husbandry which was incurred during the first years of the five-year plan.

It is also impossible not to mention that greater attention has come to be devoted to social restructuring of the village with formation of the RAPO.

Earlier, they worked primarily with the organization of public services and facilities for settlements which were situated along main routes or close to them. There were neither strength nor resources for anything else. Now at a session of the RAPO, it was decided by literally the entire rayon to build modern access roads to distant settlements. The transport facilities of all the kolkhoz organizations and enterprises participated in hauling the materials. During the time for this work, an inter-farm truck convoy and the transport facilities of Raysel'khoztekhnika [Rayon Agricultural Equipment Association] and of industrial enterprises and organizations were used most effectively.

Old roads were repaired and 86 kilometers were put down to the isolated villages of Soroka, Teeliyev, Myshkovtsy, Mala Luka and others during a period of several months.

Many stores, cultural complexes and schools are being built at the expense of the farms in the region. In a word, the social restructuring of the villages is now ongoing on a broader, more active scale, and the services of the RAPO are apparent. And I still wish to note yet another point. Last year, the agricultural department of the Party raykom analyzed how the farms in the region were equipped with power facilities. On the whole, the picture is seemingly favorable throughout the region. There are 368 horsepower per 100 hectares. But on the kolkhozes "Avangard," "im. 22nd CPSU Congress," "Bol'shevik" and "im. Ostrovskiy" this indicator was only 292-313. This unequal distribution of equipment and material resources resulted in the whole complex of field operations being held up on a number of farms, and the yield per hectare was far from uniform.

The party raykom recommended to the administrators of the agro-industrial association that they pay attention to these farms and that the distribution of material resources and equipment be made only upon recommendation of the RAPO. First of all, to allocate them to those farms which need them the most, to bring them up to the average regional indicators. This, of course, is fair, and the RAPO Council made the necessary decision.

In a word, there are many positive shifts in the work, and this is understandable. An association is an association, and many operational problems became easier to resolve since all parties of the RAPO were interested in them. However, it cannot be said that everything is going smoothly, that all questions for improving the work of the agroindustrial complex will yield to solution in the villages.

Certain higher organizations are very slowly examining the work of such organizations as Sel'khozkhimiya and Sel'khoztekhnika associations, and their activities influences the economic indicators and production on the kolkhozes to a great extent. It was pointed out at a recent session of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee that it is necessary to set the production indicators of all RAPO partners as a function of the final output on kolkhozes and sovkhozes. I think that now matters will take off.

There are other problems. For several years now we have been totally unable to start construction of a Pioneer camp and of a medical dispensary utilizing the available source of medicinal waters. The fact is that all enterprises and organizations which are a part of the RAPO and the monetary resources produced from profits beyond the plan are being transferred to accounts of the oblast-level organizations. You reach a paradox--we earn these resources within the rayon but we cannot dispose of them. We feel that the agro-industrial association can take this function on itself to some extent. For it is the region's workers and collective farm workers which are overfulfilling the plans, while departments which are not a part of RAPO distribute the income.

In this busy time, all party organizations, sovet and agricultural bodies and all workers of the region's agro-industrial complex have concentrated efforts guaranteeing for practical purposes the plans for this year and subsequent years of the five-year plan. We are shifting the center of gravity for all activity of the party organizations directly to brigades and onto the farms, where the fate of the harvest, the plans for production and sales of agricultural products to the State is being decided today.

9194

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AGRO-ECONOMICS AND ORGANIZATION

FOR A BETTER PERFORMANCE OF LAGGING ESTONIAN SOVKHOZES, KOLKHOZES

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 7 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by A. Sirendi, deputy chief, Main Administration for Planning and Economics, Estonian SSR Agro-Industry: "Does a 'Lagging Farm' Really Lag?" under the rubric "The Food Program: Problems, Solutions"; passages rendered in all capital letters appear in boldface in source]

[Text] THE INTENSITY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN OUR REPUBLIC HAS, AS IS KNOWN, REACHED A FAIRLY HIGH LEVEL. HOWEVER, THE TASKS POSED BY THE PARTY IN THE FOOD PROGRAM REQUIRE A FURTHER RAPID EXPANSION OF THE OUTPUT OF FARMING AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PRODUCTS. A MAJOR POTENTIAL FOR ACCOMPLISHING THESE TASKS IS HARBORED IN IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE KOLKHOZES AND SOVKHOZES WHICH AS YET DO NOT DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES BY A HIGH OPERATING EFFICIENCY. IT IS WITH THEM THAT TODAY'S ARTICLE DEALS.

The development of agricultural enterprises--kolkhozes and sovkhozes--has not been uniform at all times. Some farms have been developing more rapidly than others, and instances of marking time or even regression also occur.

OWING TO THE SO-CALLED GREAT MASS OF INERTIA, PUTTING A HALT TO THE LAG AND ACHIEVING AND ACCELERATING AN UPSURGE IS A RATHER DIFFICULT MATTER WHICH REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF TIME. GROWTH MAY COME TO A STANDSTILL AND REGRESSION MAY OCCUR OF ITSELF AS IT WERE AND RATHER RAPIDLY AND COVERTLY AT THAT. A RISE AND A DECLINE MAY HAVE THEIR OWN CAUSES, FOLLOW THEIR OWN INTERNAL LAWS, AND INFLUENCING THEM IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION CAN BE ACHIEVED, EVEN IF APPROPRIATE RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE, ONLY IF THE MECHANISM OF OPERATION OF THESE LAWS IS KNOWN.

Let us begin with the attitude toward the heart of the matter.

As a rule, the laggards do not consider themselves guilty of lagging, while the pace-setters consider their achievements to be to their credit. Clearly, in some ways both are right. For success does not come without hard work. But the work and efforts expended are far from always reflected equally in the results achieved. The concept of the "lagging" farm or one with a low level of development is offensive to the collective of that farm or at least it is not

conducive to promoting growth in the collective's work enthusiasm. For this reason, the Estonian Agro-Industry deemed it necessary to employ another term: A FARM OPERATING UNDER DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, at any rate until such time when it is precisely the quality of management that becomes the principal cause of the lag.

Last June the presidium of the EsSSR Agro-Industry defined the criterion for the inclusion of kolkhozes and sovkhoses on the list of farms operating under difficult economic conditions. This list includes farms whose mean income per hectare of tilled land during the last 3 years has averaged up to 60 percent of the mean republic indicator. The quality of management and the reasons for the lag are evaluated with the aid of a regression equation in which allowance is made for the wage level, the share of highly profitable commercial production, the availability of fixed assets and the allocation of purchased fodder. If the need arises, allowance is also made for a large number of other factors: quality of the soil, availability of manpower (especially tractor operators and milkmaids), level of social services, geographical situation of the farm, etc.

The economic position of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses began to deteriorate in the late 1970s when the number of the unprofitable farms started to rise. IN 1980 WE HAD 26 UNPROFITABLE FARMS OR ABOUT 8 PERCENT. FOR 1982 ALREADY 31 SOVKHOSES AND KOLKHOSES OR 12 PERCENT OF OUR FARMS, ENDED THE YEAR IN THE RED. THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF THIS SITUATION MAY INCLUDE THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE PROCUREMENT PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND THE EXPENDITURES ON PRODUCING THESE PRODUCTS, ALONG WITH A SUCCESSION OF YEARS OF POOR WEATHER.

BUT ELIMINATING UNPROFITABLE OPERATION ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. NORMAL FARMING, THE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION, REQUIRES PROFITABLE OPERATION. OUR STANDARD IS AN INCOME OF 200-250 RUBLES PER HECTARE OF TILLED LAND. THE FARMS IN WHICH PROFITABILITY OSCILLATED DURING 1979-1982 FROM -31.5 PERCENT TO +12.6 PERCENT ACCOUNTED FOR ONE-FIFTH OF ALL KOLKHOSES AND SOVKHOSES IN THE REPUBLIC. THERE WAS A FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH FARMS IN THE VYRUSKIY, VALGASKIY AND RAPLASKIY RAYONS, AND ALSO IN THE KINGISEPPSKIY, PYLVASKIY AND TARTUSKIY RAYONS. MOST OF THEM ARE LOCATED AT THE BOUNDARIES OF THESE RAYONS.

Location is only one factor. Extremely successful kolkhozes and sovkhoses also are located at rayon boundaries. Another factor is soil fertility. In the relatively unprofitable farms that fertility is lower (averaging 40 points compared with 44 points for the republic as a whole). Their soils either are too humid or lack sufficient moisture, either are too clayey or too sandy, rocky or peaty. On such soils the harvest hinges greatly on the weather and, while not plentiful, requires considerable labor and effort. The extra work they require necessitates extra material resources and, of course, extra manpower. Yet it is precisely farms of this kind that lack resources and manpower. That is why they are slow to conduct field operations and the quality of these operations is low. Owing to poor performance, funds for paying wages and bonuses are short. Experts and in general good workers leave these farms for better ones. Effects become causes and it is difficult to put an end to

the worsening of the lag. Such is the general form of the mechanism whereby lags arise.

This phenomenon has also its own psychological causes and effects. Farm heads and experts work in a situation of psychological stress and experience mostly negative emotions, while the difficult conditions affect the authority of experts and at the same time the instructions and directives received from experts employed by administrative superiors fetter initiative and thought.

Naturally, we cannot compare objectively the amount of labor invested. We assess the end-results instead. We are aware that last year the "Syade" Sovkhoz harvested 12 quintals of grain per hectare while the "Elazi" Kolkhoz harvested nearly 50, or more than four times as much. The toil and sweat invested may have been equal on both farms, but the emotions their results generate may differ. At best, both farms may derive satisfaction from knowing that they did all they could, or even more than was possible.

For many years the lagging farms have been receiving attention at the highest level. The achievements of the managers and experts at some of these farms demonstrate that much can be accomplished through the joint effort and labor of the collective and when it is competently managed.

CONSIDER HERE BY WAY OF AN EXAMPLE THE CURRENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE 'BARBOLA' SOVKHOZ, RAPLASKIY RAYON, WHICH IS MANAGED BY DIRECTOR NUUDU AYNUMYAE. LAST YEAR ITS HEAD WAS REPLACED AND ITS CADRE OF EXPERTS COMPLEMENTED AND CONSOLIDATED. THIS YEAR THE SOVKHOZ'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN AMONG THE BEST IN THE RAYON AS REGARDS BOTH SPRING SOWING AND FODDER PREPARATION AND ALSO SALES OF GRAIN TO THE STATE. IT CAN BE CONFIDENTLY STATED THAT THE UNITED EFFORTS OF THE MANAGEMENT, THE EXPERTS, THE PARTY ORGANIZATION AND THE ENTIRE COLLECTIVE WILL OF A CERTAINTY BE REFLECTED IN THE FINAL ECONOMIC RESULT OF PRODUCTION--ITS PROFITABILITY.

IT IS SAID THAT EXAMPLES PROVE NOTHING OR, IN OTHER WORDS, THAT EXAMPLES CAN BE USED TO PROVE WHATEVER ONE WISHES TO PROVE. BUT THE EXAMPLE CITED ABOVE CONVINCES US THAT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE "BARBOLA" SOVKHOZ CAN ALSO BE ACHIEVED ELSEWHERE. AFTER ALL THIS DOES NOT CONCERN EMULATING THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PACE-SETTERS BY THE LAGGARDS.

Lagging farms have specific features of their own. Strong kolkhozes and sovkhozes are able to derive additional income by resorting to additional expenditures, enlarge the land planted with intensive but labor-consuming crops and apply the achievements of science and other pace-setters.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE FOLLOWING OPERATIONS PROVE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN POTATO GROWING: EXTRA-DEEP PLOWING, DEEP LOOSENING, COMBINING INTER-ROW CULTIVATION WITH THE APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES, SANITATION OF VARIETIES, SEED TREATMENT, MANURING PRIOR TO FALL PLOWING, MEASURES AGAINST THE PHYTOPHTHORA, ETC. ALL THIS IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL ON THE LAGGING FARMS WHERE FARMING LEVEL IS LOW. UNFORTUNATELY ALL THE ABOVE OPERATIONS MAY SIMPLY BE OMITTED. SUCH FARMS BARELY COPE ONLY WITH FALL PLOWING, POTATO PLANTING, MINIMAL INTER-ROW CULTIVATION AND THE

APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS. AND THE HARVEST? IN 1982 ON 15 FARMS COMPLETING THE CENSUS THE YIELDS OF TUBERS AVERAGED 57-77 QUINTALS PER HECTARE, WHEREAS AT THE "PYDRA" SOVKHOZ THEY AVERAGED 310 QUINTALS PER HECTARE. THE FARMS WHICH DO NOT KNOW HOW TO OR CANNOT GROW POTATOES ARE FINANCIALLY RUINED. THE MORE LAND THEY PLANT WITH POTATOES THE HIGHER THEIR LOSSES.

IN 1982 THE COST OF GROWING POTATOES AT THE 'KAAR'YARVE SOVKHOZ REACHED 26 RUBLE 63 KOPECKS PER QUINTAL (YIELD: 64 QUINTALS PER HECTARE). ASSUMING A SALES PRICE OF 8 RUBLES PER QUINTAL THIS MEANS THAT THE FARM IS 71 PERCENT IN THE RED FOR EVERY QUINTAL IT SELLS. WERE ALL THESE TUBERS TO BE USED IN THIS YEAR'S PLANTING, ALL THE EXPENDITURES MADE LAST YEAR PER PLANTING HECTARE WOULD BE CARRIED OVER TO THIS YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT, GIVEN THE SAME SIZE OF HARVEST, CURRENT EXPENDITURES WOULD BE DOUBLED: 1 FODDER UNIT OF SUCH POTATOES WOULD COST 1 RUBLE. THUS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVES LEFT FOR THE FARM ARE EITHER TO SOMEHOW ACCOMMODATE THE ADDED EXPENSES WITHIN THE LIMITS OR TO EXPERIENCE A MORTAL BLOW. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT HAS TO KNOW WHICH OPERATIONS CAN BE OMITTED AT MINIMUM COST AND WHICH HAVE TO BE PERFORMED AT ANY COST.

What then has been done to overcome the lag, the low profitability, and the economic stagnation or even regression? Currently the following three forms of economic aid are basically employed. The principal form is surcharges on the prices of the beef, milk and flax produced at the farms operating under relatively difficult economic conditions or at little profit. This privilege is utilized by 60 farms. These surcharges on top of the established procurement prices are substantial, amounting to 30 percent extra for well-fattened cattle and 27 percent extra for regular cattle, as well as to 30 percent extra for category-1 milk and 75 percent extra for flax, and altogether 20 million rubles is thus spent in our republic. This subsidy covers the additional cost of production and is intended to increase profitability. By contrast with the forms of material assistance employed previously, it is used not to compensate for the shortage of a farm's own resources due to its operation at a loss, but to prevent the appearance of that shortage, achieve profitable operation and assure the recoupement of production expenditures.

Kolkhozes with insufficient fixed assets now receive funds from the state budget for financing their planned outlays on building housing, kindergartens and cultural and communal facilities as well as maintaining and furnishing preschools and schools, paying insurance premiums and building intra-farm roads. The group of farms benefiting from these subsidies includes 59 kolkhozes with a profitability level of less than 10 percent which experience a considerable shortage of capital, operate with inadequate fixed assets and have low incomes and poor intra-farm roads. This assistance from the state budget at present amounts to 5 million rubles.

There is a special list of 68 sovkhoses with inadequate fixed assets which operate either at little or no profit at all. On those kolkhozes housing construction is funded by the state budget as is, when the funds for capital outlays are low, the construction of production facilities and the payment of insurance premiums. This year these sovkhoses were granted 10 million rubles for such purposes.

In addition, the farms of the republic's south-eastern region, which are located on hilly terrain, receive various forms of relief. Owing to income redistribution, many of these farms succeeded in stabilizing their financial situation already at the beginning of the year.

THE MOST VARIED FORMS OF ASSISTANCE ARE EMPLOYED WITHIN THE RAYON AGRO-INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS. THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN MORE THAN ONCE DISCUSSED IN THE PRESS. FIRST, THERE IS DIRECT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. OF COURSE, MONEY CANNOT REPLACE WORK HANDS OR EQUIPMENT BUT IT MAKES POSSIBLE THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL, A MORE STABLE WORKFORCE AND THE ACQUISITION AND EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF EQUIPMENT.

THE FARMS OPERATING UNDER DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS NEED ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE, ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY MANPOWER AND RESOLUTION OF THEIR SUPPLY PROBLEMS. TO THIS END, ALL THE AFFECTED KOLKHOZES AND SOVKHOZES ARE UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, WITH 32 BEING UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE REPUBLIC'S MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

Last year the maximum loss sustained by one farm reached half a million rubles. The average farm operating with a low profit margin derives one-third of a million rubles from surcharges on procurement prices alone. Raising the procurement prices in a combination with other forms of economic aid creates an environment in which no kolkhoz or sovkhoz should operate at a loss. All the more so considering that this also has been favored by the weather during the fodder-preparation and harvesting season.

1386

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FORESTRY AND TIMBER

MINISTERIAL COLLEGIUM DISCUSSES LABOR PROBLEMS OF TIMBER INDUSTRY

Moscow LESNAYA PROMYSHLENNOST' in Russian 30 Aug 83 pp 1-2.

/Report on meeting: "To Strengthen Labor Discipline"/

/Text/ An expanded meeting of the collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry with the participation of responsible officials of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR State Planning Committee and the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, ministers of the Union republics, chiefs of all-Union associations, administrations and divisions of the central apparatus of this ministry and managers of the Central Trade-Union Committee was held.

Problems of improving the provision in 1983 of the national economy with the output of the timber, pulp-paper and wood processing industry, of intensifying work on strengthening socialist discipline of labor and of developing the production of goods for cultural-general and economic purposes were discussed. M. I. Busygin, USSR minister of the timber, pulp and paper, and wood processing industry, presented a report.

It was noted with concern and anxiety that the ministry, instead of improving indicators, worked even worse in July than in June. Thus, in total logging in 7 months the debt reached 2.5 million cubic meters, in pulp cooking, 87,000 tons and in cardboard output, 61,000 tons. A considerable lag also occurred in the plywood and plate industry and in the production of sawn timber.

The low level of production and labor discipline is one of the basic reasons for the lag. The recently published decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the AUCCTU directs us toward strengthening it. In particular, it states that the manager's inability to ensure proper labor discipline at the area of work entrusted to him should be considered unsuitability for the position held. Managers of all ranks--from the foreman to the chief of the ministry's administration--should fully realize this. After all, owing to work time losses more than 12,000 people do not work in the ministry's system every day. Unauthorized absences from work, idling and non-appearance at work with the administration's permission are the main misfortunes.

The collegium cited very alarming figures: in the collectives of the enterprises of Tomlesprom (Comrade Glazachev), Irkutsklesprom (Comrade Sakharov), Krasnoyarsklesprom (Comrade Yemel'yanov), Komilesprom (Comrade Iyevlev) and Permlesprom (Comrade Kurbash), on the average, one out of three workers is an absentee.

During the first 6 months, as compared with the past period, the number of unauthorized absences from work increased in Soyuzbumprom (Comrade Titov), Soyuzplitprom (Comrade Mitchenko) and Soyuzbumaga (Comrade Fesenko). Can we further tolerate these scandalous shortcomings? Of course, not. The collegium demanded that managers do not put up with the low level of labor discipline, uncover cases of mismanagement and take strict measures to introduce proper order in production.

The experience of the best enterprises indicates that, where discipline problems are handled constantly, things go well. This applies to our leading lights--those in the forefront of socialist competition, that is, the Moldavian SSR Ministry of the Furniture and Wood Processing Industry, Tsentrrombel' and Yugmebel' associations, the Irkutskles Production Association, the Barguzin Timber Industry Establishment, the Astrakhan Timber Transport Combine, the Asha Timber Plant, the Pitkyaranta Pulp Plant, Kaliningradbumprom, Belbumprom and Kemerovomebel' production associations, the Krasnaya Zvezda Match Factory, the Volgograd Wood Processing Combine, the Gatchina Furniture Factory and many other enterprises. Here direct work with people is placed on a high level. Such an attitude should serve as a model for the rest.

The USSR law "On Labor Collectives and Increase in Their Role in the Management of Enterprises, Institutions and Organizations" has been put into effect recently. On the basis of its requirements all the links of the collective must ensure continuous and smooth work and the fulfillment of the established plans and assignments. As is well known, the collective begins with the brigade. In the ministry's system by the end of the five-year plan the level of workers in brigades should be brought up to 85 percent (now it is 70 percent). Vologdalesprom, Permlesprom, Kostromalesprom and Yugmebel' associations and Moldavian and Ukrainian SSR ministries have obtained good results here. Soyuzbumprom has improved work on the introduction of brigade forms of labor organization.

However, many associations do not pay proper attention to this important matter. This applies to Irkutsklesprom, Krasnoyarsklesprom and Soyuzlesremmash.

The practical experience of enterprises, where brigades have been established on a permanent basis, shows their indisputable advantage. For example, in the Vokhma Kostromalesprom Timber Industry Establishment more than 80 percent of the workers work in brigades. As a result, the establishment fulfills planned assignments successfully and overall output grows. It is much higher than the average in the association.

The collegium again stressed that the introduction of the brigade contract greatly increases the efficiency of work. It makes it possible to ensure an economical expenditure of material and fuel resources and to rationally utilize work time as a result of the strengthening of labor and production discipline. Labor productivity in cost accounting brigades is much higher than in ordinary ones.

As the collegium stated, the need to sharply change the attitude toward delivery discipline is one of the most important tasks. The products list plan must become the law. Unfortunately, many managers have not understood this to this day. For example, for a breach of delivery contracts since the beginning of the year Dal'lesprom has paid more than 20 million rubles in fines, Permlesprom, 15 million rubles and Sverdlesprom, about 12 million rubles.

Nor can the fines paid by enterprises for an excessive layover of cars during loading and unloading be tolerated. This is evidence of an irresponsible attitude on the part of some managers toward the end results of the collective's labor. Thus, with the acute shortage of the rolling stock this year Dal'lesprom (12,000 cars), Irkutsklesprom (11,000), Sverdlesprom (9,000) and others have underclaimed, unutilized and refused to load cars.

The collegium demanded that ministries, main administrations and industrial and production associations carefully examine the results of 8-month work, especially on the deliveries of products based on the complete products list, and map out and implement specific measures to improve the situation.

The collegium again stressed that the situation in our base timber procurement sector was especially alarming. To this day some managers continue to refer to so-called "objective" reasons, thus justifying their inability to organize matters. Let us take, for example, two associations working under approximately the same conditions, that is, Karellesprom and Komilesprom. Their indicators are totally different. Whereas the former fulfills the plan efficiently, the second increases its debt.

The same comparisons can be drawn between Kostromalesprom and Kirovlesprom and between individual associations in Siberia and the Far East.

Therefore, it is clear that, where control over production is organized well and where the level of exactingness and responsibility for work is high, excellent results are obtained.

Now the sector's workers face the task of promptly and qualitatively preparing themselves for winter timber procurement. This work is still carried out slowly in many places. This especially applies to Kirovlesprom, Tyumen'lesprom and other associations.

The attention of ministers of the Union republics and chiefs of associations was drawn to the need to adopt prompt and efficient measures to fulfill the entire set of preparatory operations for the fall and winter season.

In their speeches participants in the collegium stressed that success in logging completely depended on the state and operation of roads and on the utilization of mechanisms.

It also happens that timber procured and logged with difficulty lies like a dead load and is not crosscut. Thus, in 7 months the lag in crosscutting in the Main Administration of the Timber Industry alone exceeded 700,000 cubic meters, while 1.7 billion cubic meters of full-length logs were available.

It is time to stop regarding crosscutting as something secondary. It should be considered the most important indicator of work.

The collegium analyzed the state of performance discipline at pulp and paper enterprises. It was noted that, despite the measures taken, as before, the Bratsk Timber Industry Complex and Amursk and Segezha combines operate at a low level.

An especially alarming situation was created with respect to the production of printed types of paper, for which the sector was subjected to just criticism at the June (1983) Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. The proper conclusions must be drawn from this criticism and an attempt must be made to rectify the situation in the shortest time.

Strengthening production discipline is the main lever in improving this matter. We must not tolerate the fact that at the Amursk Combine, for example, owing to technical malfunctions, the unplanned idle time at the cardboard making machine totaled 1,350 machine-hours, or, on the average, 8 days per month. On the average, every batch digester is also idle 4 days per month.

The workers of the pulp and paper industry face the task of sharply improving work and attaining a mandatory fulfillment of the plan for all types of products.

The collegium also subjected the work of the saw milling, plywood and plate industry to sharp criticism. Having analyzed the work of builders, the collegium stressed that it was necessary to make every effort to fulfill plans, especially for housing and logging road construction.

The collegium strictly examined the problem of the production of consumer goods. It was noted that the output of the simplest articles from timber was not increasing sufficiently. Tomlesprom, Karellesprom and other associations fill the orders of trade organizations in an especially unsatisfactory way, breaking delivery discipline.

Thus, the workers of the Tomlesprom Association manufactured goods for cultural-general and household purposes worth 46 million rubles less than during the same period last year. In Karellesprom the output of these necessary products per ruble of wages totals only 6 kopecks.

The collegium set for ministries and associations the task of sharply increasing the output of consumer goods on the basis of the established products list and of fully providing the population with them. It noted that it was necessary to see to it that every enterprise engaged in this important matter.

The decree of the collegium of the USSR Ministry of the Timber, Pulp and Paper, and Wood Processing Industry stresses that the strengthening of discipline in all links--labor, production and delivery discipline--guarantees that the sector will overcome the lag that has occurred in it and will enter 1984 with a reliable reserve. The efforts of all timber workers must now be directed toward this.

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- END -